

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

- Fig. 2 schematically illustrates ~~a typical ("onion") arrangement of a~~ the onion-shaped drill hole, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein Fig. 2a shows a general view of the drill hole, comprising the cylindrical part and the close-to-spherical ("onion") part, and Fig. 2b shows the onion part (ITEM A) in detail; --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

- Figs. 3a and 3b show a field test of the detonation of initial, secondary and primary wherein Fig. 3a shows the detonation of initial explosive charges, ~~respectively,~~ and Fig. 3b shows the detonation of primary and secondary explosive charges in accordance with the present invention; ~~and~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

- Fig. 4 schematically illustrates the array of drill holes, wherein Fig. 4a illustrates a conventional blasting arrangement versus and Fig. 4b illustrates a blasting arrangement in accordance with the present invention; and

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 18 of page 8:

-- Fig. 5 schematically illustrates utilization of initial stemming prior to the detonation of the initial explosive charge, according to the present invention. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Blasting method of array of onion-shaped drill holes having a cylindrical upper portion and ~~an onion-like~~ a close-to-spherical lowermost portion, in which an array of cylindrical drill holes is drilled in a site that should be blasted. For each of the cylindrical drill holes, an onion shape is imparted to the bottom portion of the drill hole. The onion shaped cavity is filled with a primary explosive charge, a portion of the drill hole, above the primary explosive charge, with buffer material, another portion of the drill hole, above the buffer material, is filled with a secondary explosive charge and the remaining portion of the drill hole is filled with additional buffer material. Then the primary and secondary explosives are detonated. --